

STATE OF MAINE
Coronavirus Relief Fund Payments
for 25% Local Match on FEMA Public Assistance
Overview and Guidance

The Governor has committed \$35 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to assist local and tribal governments, and other entities that qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance, with incurred COVID-19 expenses. Specifically, the \$35 million is intended to provide the 25% match against FEMA's Public Assistance Program Major Disaster Declaration for COVID-19 for eligible expenses incurred on or after March 1, 2020 that FEMA has approved by December 1, 2020. The Governor will continue to assess whether additional CRF is needed for match purposes based on submissions being made to FEMA.

The CRF was provided to states through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Under federal law, eligible uses of the CRF must meet three conditions. They must be:

- "Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to...COVID-19"
 - Funds must not be used to substitute for lost revenue
- "Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government"
 - As of March 27, 2020 when the CARES Act was enacted
 - Funds must not be used to supplant state or municipal spending
- "Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020."

The US Treasury Department issued [initial guidance](#) on eligible uses and reporting requirements for states' use of these funds. Subsequent guidance continues to be provided in the form of [FAQs](#) posted on US Treasury's website.

On May 20, 2020, the US Treasury Department issued new, verbal guidance, that the CRF can be used for this 25% local match and written assurance of that guidance is expected in the near future. Given that CRF cannot be used to backfill for government revenue losses, many local government expenses directly related to COVID-19 are likely eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Applicants who may be eligible are encouraged to apply for assistance by contacting the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at maine.recovery@maine.gov with the organization name, point of contact name, email and phone number to receive an account to FEMA's online Grants Portal. FEMA will determine applicant eligibility based on the requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Eligible expenses may include:

- Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety
- Emergency medical care
- Medical sheltering (e.g., when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded soon and cannot accommodate needs)
- Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits
- Movement of supplies and persons
- Security and law enforcement
- Communications of general health and safety information to the public
- Reimbursement for tribe, territory and/or local government employee overtime costs

For information on the FEMA Public Assistance process and eligible applicants and expenses, please visit the MEMA website at <https://www.maine.gov/mema/grants/public-assistance-grant-program>. The MEMA video presentation “Public Assistance Briefing for FEMA-4522-DR-ME May 2020” available on the website provides a helpful overview.

MEMA will process payment on all Federal awards to include the 75% FEMA reimbursement and the 25% match in one payment, thereby providing full and timely relief for these expenses. To comply with the CARES Act, the State needs to make payments using CRF prior to the December 30, 2020 deadline specified in the Act. Consequently, to provide MEMA sufficient processing time, the 25% match using CRF will only be provided for requests approved by FEMA by **December 1, 2020**. Requests approved by FEMA after December 1, 2020 will be subject to the standard match traditionally provided for disaster relief, 15% state match and 10% local match, with the state match being provided after legislative appropriation of the funding.

The State expects local governments to maximize the use of FEMA assistance and other non-CRF federal grants to address the impacts of COVID-19 on their communities. However, there may be expenses that are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement and are not covered by other federal COVID-related assistance. The State will be working with the Maine Municipal Association to gather estimates from local governments on additional CRF-eligible expenses of this nature that have been incurred, or are expected to be incurred. Information gathered will be used in considering possible additional expense-reimbursements from the CRF beyond the 25% local match assistance currently being provided.

For questions, contact maine.recovery@maine.gov.